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Michael Ciardi, W4PPM

ARES:

Paul Horner, W4ISZ

Mailto: info@pslara.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

(www.pslara.org)

June 19, 2019

. ARES Mtg.- SLC EOC

. 2X4 DX Group Net:

June 20, 2019

. CW Training Net

. PSLARA Ragchew,

Tech & Traders Net

June 24, 2019

. CW Training Net

June 26, 2019

. 2X4 DX Group Mtg

. Diner Social

. Membership Meeting

June 27, 2019

. CW Training Net:

. PSLARA Ragchew,

Tech & Traders Net

July 1, 2019

. CW Training Net:

July 3, 2019

. ARES Net

. 2X4 DX Group Net:

July 4, 2019

. CW Training Net:

. PSLARA Ragchew,

Tech & Traders Net

July 6, 2019

. Monthly Breakfast

July 8, 2019

. CW Training Net



PSLARA NEWS

Port St Lucie Amateur Radio Association



JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our next membership meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 295 NW Prima Vista Blvd, Port Saint Lucie. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on the north side of the church property.

DXCC & HF CHALLENGE

Gone But Not Forgotten	DXCC & HF Geography	Know Your Prefixes	(Useless?) DXCC Trivia	DXers Know Antennas
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>
<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>

Whether you are new to Ham Radio HF (high frequency) operating or working on a DXCC, this game will challenge your knowledge and skills.

A BIG THANK YOU to Jim, WB2REM for his May Galapagos Islands DXpedition presentation.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SKYWARN WEATHER.GOV

SKYWARN TRAINING: The Melbourne office of the National Weather Service will be offering Skywarn Basic and Advanced training on Friday, July 19, 2019 at the St. Lucie County EOC, 15305 W Midway Road. Basic training will run from 10 AM to 12 noon. Advanced training will run from 1 PM to 3 PM. Amateurs and their spouses are invited to participate. Please note this event is not open to the general public. Pre-registration is required, Sign up early to be sure of reserving a seat. Use the links below to register.

Skywarn Basic - Friday, July 19, 2019, 10:00 AM to 12 noon

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-basic-training-registration-071919-ft-pierce-tickets-58797299305>

Skywarn Advanced - Friday, July 19, 2019, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-advanced-training-registration-071919-ft-pierce-tickets-58802169873>



FORT PIERCE HAMFEST

Saturday, August 10, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce. There will be hourly prizes, vendors, forums, food, DXCC card checking, an ARRL forum and more. All indoors in air conditioned comfort. A VE test session will be held at 9:00 AM. See the [FORT PIERCE HAMFEST](#) flyer for all the details. **COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE FT. PIERCE HAMFEST.**

PORT ST LUCIE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (PSLARA)

PSLARA membership is comprised of licensed amateur radio operators and persons interested in the "ham" radio hobby. PSLARA's purpose is to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby. Accordingly, the goals of PSLARA are to further the exchange of information and cooperation among members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism, and individual operating efficiency. We aim to conduct club meetings, programs and activities in a manner that advances the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio. The Association is also dedicated to providing emergency communications as a public service in the event of a local or national emergency. More information about the PSLARA can be found on our website. (www.pslara.org)

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PSLARA conducts VE license testing sessions ten times per year at the St. Lucie County Emergency Operations Center,

15305 W. Midway Road, Fort Pierce, FL. Pre-registration is not necessary at our test sessions, and walk-ups are always welcome. Click the [Testing Training](#) link on the left side menu for additional exam details and testing session schedule. Email : Testing@PSLARA.com.

NEXT TEST SESSION - Saturday, July 13, 2019 - 8:30 AM St. Lucie County Emergency Operations Center



2X4 DX GROUP

Have an interest in DXing?

Working on your DXCC or WAC? Join the 2X4 DX Group!

The group meets at 9:00 AM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 295 NW Prima Vista Blvd, Port St. Lucie. The church is located one block west of the intersection of Prima Vista Blvd and Airoso Blvd. Meetings are held in the small meeting room on the west side of the main church building. Visitors are always welcome.

The 2X4 Group's net is every 1st & 3rd (& when necessary 5th) Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM on the PSLARA 146.955 repeater.

For more information about the 2X4 DX Group please visit the [PSLARA](#) website or contact Don, WY5I@bellsouth.net.



Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

The ARES is an organization of trained, qualified, and credentialed Amateur Radio operators who augment and support vital communications on behalf of the public during emergencies and disasters.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, through its volunteer radio communicators, strives to be an effective partner in emergency and disaster response, providing public service partners at all levels with radio communications expertise, capability, and capacity.

If you are not a member of ARES, please consider joining and being a part of one of Amateur Radio's most important functions. Please contact Paul Horner, W4ISZ (w4iszf@outlook.com) for information.



The PSLARA operates two repeaters: The 2-meter repeater is at 146.955 MHz, while the 70-cm repeater is at 443.650 MHz. The PL tone for both repeaters is 107.2 Hz. Our weekly Ragchew, Traders and Tech Net is held on both repeaters each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. All licensed amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate in this open net.

Our 2-meter repeater has EchoLink (Node# 402163-K4PSL-R).



This month (and in the month's ahead) we will be featuring ham radio topics and antenna articles from Peter Parker, VK3YE. Peter is well known throughout the amateur radio community for his many amateur radio publications, webpage, and Daily Antenna blog. Please visit his webpage (vk3ye.com). Peter's books are available on [AMAZON](#).

RF CURRENT INDICATOR

A handy little instrument for antenna tests is this little RF current indicator here. You can move it near antenna elements, counterpoise elements and open wire feedline to identify points of maximum current. This gives you some reassurance that things are working as the theory books say they should.



It's so simple that you don't need a circuit. The parts you need are as follows:

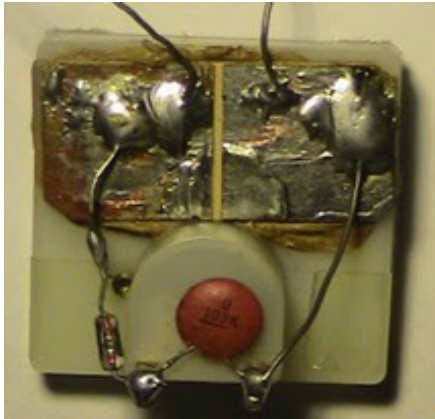
- * Tinned copper wire - about 30cm long for sense antenna
- * Germanium diode as used in crystal

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sets (eg 1N34A, OA95 etc)

* Disc ceramic capacitor - anywhere from 1nF to 100nF

* Analogue meter movement - anywhere from 50 uA to 1mA full scale deflection



Both the diode and meter are polarized. The cathode of the diode (end nearest the thin stripe) must go to the positive (+) on the meter. Meters are marked with + and - terminals. I used a small printed circuit board on the back to provide some extra rigidity. Use a hacksaw to saw a slot to separate both connections of the sense loop.

To use the indicator run its sense wire parallel with the antenna element or feedline to maximize coupling and get an indication on the meter. Move it a little away if the meter reads full scale. Move it up and down the antenna or counterpoise wire to see how the current varies with the meter's position along it.

LOADED DIPOLE ANTENNA

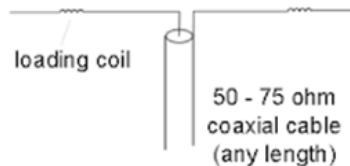
If you don't have the room for a full sized dipole (even after you bend its ends down or in) one solution is a of the cord apart, using the remaining together section as a feedline.

This sounds a bit crude. The cord's And together section as a feedline.

loaded dipole. You lose a bit of performance and a lot of bandwidth (or a lot of performance and a bit of bandwidth) but one is still a good way to get onto a particular band. And the way conditions are at the bottom of the cycle, even a limited capability on 80 metres can be very valuable.

A loaded dipole has some sort of loading. Either capacitive loading at the end of its element or inductive loading along it. You can make the latter by winding wire on a plastic pipe. Depending on how the coils are positioned you can even make a

Shorter than 1/2 wavelength end to end on desired centre frequency



loaded dipole work on two bands (with the higher frequency band being served by both sides of the antenna wire between the loading coils and feedline).

Here's some ideas for and examples of loaded dipoles:

- * [Coil shortened dipole calculator](#)
- * [MOMCX shortened 40m dipole for attics](#)
- * [VK1HW 80 and 40m loaded dipole](#)
- * [Adding 80m to a 40m dipole](#) (video)

ZIP CORD DIPOLE ANTENNAS

My first instinct when I see a long piece of two wire electrical lead (or zip cord) is to pull it apart and use the wire. Often the wire is nice and thick and good for HF dipoles.

However some people only pull some of the cord apart, using the remaining

This sounds a bit crude. The cord's impedance is a long way from 50 ohm. And there can be significant losses, particularly towards the upper end of the HF range.

You may need an antenna coupler between the transceiver and the feedline. But with any luck the types built in to some transceivers, only good for a limited impedance range, may suffice.

I've never used a zip cord dipole myself. But here's some experiences from others with them:

- * [K1TD QST article on zip cord antennas](#) (pdf)
- * [KE8DI zip cord antenna](#)
- * [Zip cord portable receiving antenna](#)

DON'T TRUST ALL SMA-SO239 ADAPTERS

Yesterday we talked about the differences between BNC connectors and how using the wrong type can make connections intermittent. Another connector problem, particularly with VHF/UHF gear, is SMA to SO239 adapters. You might think a problem is with your transceiver, antenna or feedline, when it's actually the connector. And it can be difficult to track down. Bargain-hunting eBay buyers beware!

Please remember to check out Peter's [books](#). You won't be disappointed!

If you enjoy Peter's articles please let us know at info@pslara.com.

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UPCOMING DX

CYPRUS, 5B. 5B19CWC is QRV to celebrate the Cricket World Cup which ends on July 14. QSL via 5B4AJT.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Gildas, F6HMQ is QRV as FG/F6HMQ and TO1T until June 25. QSL to home call.

PALAU, T8. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ will be QRV as T88PB from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, from June 15 to 23. 6 meters using FT8. QSL direct to home call.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Operators Vasily, R7AL, Vladimir, RK8A and Albert, UB9WLJ are QRV as R205NEW from Bogoslova Island, IOTA AS-205, until June 18. This is a new island activation. QSL via Club Log.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X. Christmas Island Amateur Radio Club station VK9XX has been active on 20 meters around 0900z. QSL via operator's instructions.

MICRONESIA, V6. Hatu, JA1XGI will be QRV as V6K from Kosrae Island, IOTA OC-059, from June 17 to 24. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

GREENLAND, OX. Bo, OZ1DJJ is QRV as OX3LX from Nuuk City until June 21. Focus on 160, 80 and 60 meters. QSL direct to OZ0J.

GHANA, 9G. Matteo, IZ4YGS is QRV as 9G5GS from Sanzule, West Takoradi until July 2 while here on work assignment. Evenings on 160 to 6 meters using mostly FT8 and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

And there is plenty more out there.....

SELECTED SPECIAL EVENTS

July 6, 1400Z-2030Z, K4RC, Colonial Williamsburg. Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club. 7.265 14.265. QSL. QSL Manager, PO Box 1470, Williamsburg, VA 23187. Celebrating the 243rd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. www.k4rc.net

July 6-7, 1500Z-2100Z, WW1USA, World War 1 Centennial Kansas City, MO. National World War 1 Museum and Memorial. SSB: 21.250 14.250 7.200; CW: 21.057 14.057 7.057; FT8: 14.074 7.200 7.074. Certificate & QSL. WW1USA, National World War 1 Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64108. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the peace treaties ending World War 1. ww1usa@theworldwar.org or <https://www.theworldwar.org/amateurradio>

June 29-July 10, 1200Z-0500Z, WO4L, 156th Anniversary of "The Battle of Gettysburg" East Berlin, PA. Bob Hess. 14.275 3.830 7.185 1.930. Certificate & QSL. Bob Hess, 74 Curtis Dr, East Berlin, PA 17316. Please follow QSL instructions on QRZ for full 11 x 14 full color Certificate and or a QSL card www.grz.com/db/wo4l

July 1-8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2M, 13 Colonies Event, PA Station New Kensington, PA. 13 Colonies Special Event. 14.260. Certificate. Skyview Radio Society, 2335 Turkey Ridge Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068. <http://13colonies.net> www.ac8rc.org

July 1-28, 0900Z-2359Z, GB5EHL, Eagle Has Landed Leicester, ENG-

LAND. Leicester Radio Society. 14.250; 160 to 10, 4, 6, and 2 meters; 70 cm, on all popular modes. QSL. Mr. M. Harriman, 70 Station Rd., Thurnby, Leicester LE79PU, ENGLAND. <https://www.g3lrs.org.uk>

July 5-19, 0000Z-2359Z, W4P 80th Anniversary Celebration of the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group, Inc.. 14.260 7.195. QSL. WPBARG, P.O. Box 7623, West Palm Beach, FL 33405-7623. <https://wpbarg.com>

July 18-21, 1200Z-1700Z, W8EDS, Tall Ships Celebration - Bay City Michigan Bay City, MI. Bay Area Amateur Radio Club. 147.360 PL131.8 145.310 PL131.8 444.500 PL123. Certificate. Jon Dee Coulter, 1454 Wesley Ct, Bay City, MI 48708.

July 19-21, 2000Z-2000Z, W4A, Apollo Moon Landing 50th Anniversary at Space & Rocket Center Huntsville Amateur Radio Club HARC. 14.290 7.225 7.044 3.945; SSB CW FT8. QSL. M.D. Smith, WA4DXP, 307 Clinton Ave. W., Suite 100, Huntsville, AL 35801. Celebrating Man's first steps on the moon. SASE for QSL. www.grz.com/db/W4A

TRIVIA QUESTION

The United States issued the first Amateur Radio license in 1912. Who received it?

- A. Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW
- B. Don Wallace, 6AM
- C. Irving Vermilya, 1ZE
- D. Lee DeForest, 1AA

Answer will be revealed at the next PSLARA meeting